



cm PLUGIN SUITE

The **cm** Plugin Suite is world famous for delivering the instruments, effects and utilities you need to make music, and you get it free with every issue! Here's your complete guide...

> The **cm** Plugins collection is a suite of complete, limitation-free instrument and effects plugins. It's an incredible resource, boasting more than 90 pro-quality Mac and PC plugins that, in most cases, you won't find anywhere else, all in VST and AU formats. The included software is created exclusively for us by respected commercial developers such as D16 Group, u-he, AudioRealism, Ohm Force, KV331 Audio, Cableguys, XILS-lab, AudioThing, Vengeance-Sound, Rob Papien, zplane and more.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Enough talking! Where do I get these plugins?

You can grab them all on the cover DVD with our print edition, or as a download from FileSilo (see **p80** for instructions on how to access).

How do I install cm Plugins?

It depends on the plugin. Some have dedicated installers, while others

just drop into your plugin folders. There's a bit more info on p111, and there are specific installation instructions for each in the **How To Install** file in the **CM Plugins** folder.

What do I need to use them?

A PC or Mac and a music program (aka DAW) to host them. You need a DAW that can host VST or AU plugins, such as Ableton Live, Reaper, FL Studio (PC), Cubase, Sonar (PC), Logic (Mac) or GarageBand (Mac). A gratis option is Tracktion Waveform Free.

What happened to...?

As of **cm209**, almost all **cm** Plugins are 64-bit compatible. The few older **cm** Plugins that remain 32-bit-only - such as Amplifikation CM, Rhino CM and KR-Delay/KR-Reverb - are now included in the **32-bit only** subfolders. These plugins require either a 32-bit host or a suitable 'bit bridge' (eg, jBridge) for use in a 64-bit DAW.

Still got questions? See the full FAQ at bit.ly/cmpluginsfaq

THE cm SUITE

Mac OS Catalina Updates

We're working on getting as many of our Mac plugins in the **cm**Suite updated to run in the latest Catalina OS. Unfortunately, not all will make the transition as many smaller developers simply don't have the resources. Please check the notes we have supplied next to each plugin to check the current status before updating to Catalina if you haven't already, as, because of circumstances beyond our control, you may lose your favourite plugins. We will, however, update as many as possible, so bear with us!



INSTRUMENTS

HYBRID SYNTHS

Our synths have been created by the best software developers in the world to bring you a suite of sound-making tools for all music production scenarios



Cherry Audio Voltage Modular Nucleus

- Eurorack-style modular environment
 - 22 modules
 - As sold for \$29
 - PC/Mac, AU/VST/Standalone
- cherryaudio.com



u-he Zebra CM

- Blendable oscillator waveforms
 - Super-programmable step LFOs
 - Slick delay, reverb and chorus
 - Original synth designed just for CM
 - AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
- macOS Catalina ready!*
u-he.com

PLUS

Enzyme CM

- Scanned synthesis instrument
 - AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
- humanoidsoundsystems.com

Klevgränd Enkl CM

- Fun, quirky one-osc monosynth
 - AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
- klevgrand.se

Cableguys Curve 2.6 CM

- Design-your-own-waveforms synth
 - Phat 16-voice Unison mode
 - AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
- cableguys.com

KV331 Audio SynthMaster CM

- Dual wavescanning oscillators
 - Multimode filter and built-in effects
 - FM/AM synthesis modes
 - Based on SynthMaster 2.5
 - AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
- kv331audio.com

Psychic Modulation Phonec CM

- Retro-inspired four-voice synth
 - Two oscillators, noise osc and sub
 - EchoShifter, Chorus and Melt
 - Four envs, two LFOs, Arp and Seq
- psychicmodulation.com



u-he Bazille CM

- Patchable modular synthesiser
 - Sequencer and Mapping Generator
 - Audio-rate modulation, Fractalizer
 - Huge how-to guide in **cm232**
 - AU/VST 32-/64-bit
- u-he.com



Dmitry Sches Thorn CM

- Dual spectral oscs/analogue/harmonic filters/spectral/real-time effects/glyph sequencer and arp
 - VST/VST3/AU/AA, 32-/64-bit
- macOS Catalina ready!*
dmitryshes.com



Synapse Audio Dune CM

- VA and wavetable oscillators
 - Powerful per-voice modulation
 - 12-slot modulation matrix
 - Based on the full version of Dune
 - AU/VST/RTAS, 32-/64-bit
- synapse-audio.com



Seaweed Audio Fathom CM

- Monster modular polysynth
 - VA, FM, wavetable, additive + more
 - Envelopes, LFOs and sequencing
 - Tons of filters and effects
 - AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
- fathomsynth.com

VIRTUAL ANALOGUE SYNTHS

Get the sounds of sought-after circuits with our classic collection



LinPlug Alpha CM

- Dual oscillators with wave blending
 - Mod matrix, slick chorus effect
 - Polyphonic glide between notes
 - Based on the commercial Alpha
 - AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
- linplug.com



XILS-lab PolyKB II CM

- Models the ultra-rare PolyKobol
 - Packed with mix-ready presets
 - Assign knobs to main parameters
 - Based on XILS-lab's PolyKB II
 - AU/VST/RTAS, 32-/64-bit
- xils-lab.com



Madrona Labs Aalto CM

- Unusual oscillators with FM
 - Intuitively patchable modulation
 - Onboard reverb • Step sequencing
 - Based on the full Aalto synth
 - AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
- madronalabs.com

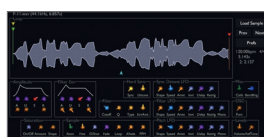


XILS-lab XILS 3 CM

- Modelled on the EMS VCS 3 modular
 - Authentic circuits of the original
 - Pin matrices to 'patch' signal flow
 - AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
- macOS Catalina ready!*
xils-lab.com

SAMPLERS

Import, slice and loop your audio files with these creative and highly customisable instruments



Expert Sleepers XFadeLooper CM

- Creative crossfade-looping sampler
 - Hard Sync mode and modulation
 - Saturation section, flexible looping
 - AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
- expert-sleepers.co.uk



Loomer Cumulus

- Granular sampler with sequencing
 - Scenes function to sequence slices
 - Not based on an existing plugin
 - AU/VST 32-/64-bit
 - RTAS/Standalone 32-bit
- loomer.co.uk

DRUM MACHINES

Get heads nodding and design better beats



DopeVST Beat Machine CM

- 50 ready-mixed royalty-free kits
- 50 MIDI beats included
- Kick, Snare, Hi-hat and Misc parts
- Level, Pan, Pitch and Reverb
- AU/VST, 32-/64-bit

dopevst.com



XILS-lab StiX CM

- Drum synth with sequencer; load preset kits/grooves; apply effects, mix sounds; polystep modulation and more: AU/VST, 32-/64-bit

macOS Catalina ready!
xils-lab.com



Thenatan Trax CM

- Sample-based drum machine
- 20 awesome preset kits
- Noise layers and distortion
- Pitch, Filter and Reverb
- AU/VST, 32-/64-bit

thenatan.com



brunsandspork Groove CM

- Load in two samples per sound
- 50 built-in **cm** Micro Kits to play
- AU/VST, 32-/64-bit

brunsandspork.com



AudioRealism ADM CM

- Old-school-style drum machine
- Emulates Roland's TR-606
- Also contains custom **cm** samples
- AU/VST, 32-/64-bit

audiorealism.se

OTHER INSTRUMENTS AND CREATIVE PLUGINS

Sequencers, scale players and other instruments to help your creative flow



DopeVST Bass Engine CM

- 45 authentic hip-hop bass patches
- Three eras of faux-sampled bass
- 50 MIDI riffs included
- Envelope and note controls
- AU/VST, 32-/64-bit

dopevst.com



Kirnu Cream CM

- Get more out of plugin instruments and master arpeggios with this tool
- Program and store complex patterns
- Musical controls for rhythm/notes
- AU/VST, 32-/64-bit

kirnuarp.com



zplane vielklang 2 CM

- Pitch-correct and retune audio
- Harmonise melodies with ease
- Level and pan harmony voices
- Algorithms by zplane's experts
- AU/VST, 32-/64-bit

zplane.de



Eisenberg Einklang CM

- Morph between a trio of oscillators
- Envelope and timbre controls
- Modulate tone with the LFO
- Based on the full Einklang synth
- AU/VST, 32-/64-bit

eisenberg-audio.de



HY-Seq Collection 2 CM

- Analogue-inspired sequencer
- 16-step MIDI instrument
- Up to 12 global snapshots
- Three reorderable FX modules
- AU/VST, 32-/64-bit

hy-plugins.com



AudioThing miniBit CM

- 15-waveform chiptune synth
- Envelope and LFO modulation
- Bit-depth/sample rate reduction
- Based on the commercial miniBit
- AU/VST, 32-/64-bit

audiething.net



RF Music Scale Player CM

- Play scales in new, creative ways
- Set a 'home' note and scale
- Play other keys to alter settings
- Based on the full Scale Player
- AU/VST, 32-/64-bit

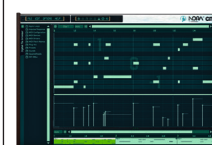
rfmusic.net



AutoTonic CM

- Always stay in key with this MIDI app
- White keys play notes while black keys select the scale you're in
- Choose from a variety of scales
- Standalone, acts as your MIDI input

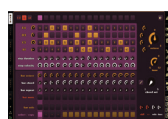
autotonic.net



Squaredheads Nora CM

- Input up to four notes, output chords and arpeggios
- Program velocities & store patterns
- Mac users require macOS 10.8+
- AU/VST, 32-/64-bit

squaredheads.com



Monoplugs B-Step CM

- Step sequencer for beats and chords
- Easily creates chord progressions
- Seven pages of controls to dial in
- Based on the commercial B-Step
- AU/VST, 32-/64-bit

monoplugs.com



Rob Papen RG-Muted CM

- Create realistic funk guitar grooves
- Onboard sequencer
- Effects and modulation options
- Based on Rob Papen RG
- AU/VST, 32-/64-bit

robpapen.com



EFFECTS

DYNAMICS

Check out this huge collection of processors - from classic compressors to modern digital creations, we've got everything you need to shape your signals



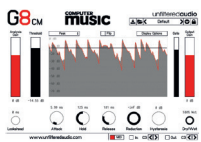
eaReckon CM-COMP 87
 • Slick, punchy compressor
 • Mix knob for parallel compression
 • Limiter to keep the output in check
 • Clear VU- and LED-style metering
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
eareckon.com



Acustica Audio Violet CM
 • Three-band multiband compressor
 • SHmod to shape attack response
 • Impart analogue-style valve tone
 • Ideal for mixing and mastering
 • VST/AU/AAX, 32-/64-bit
acustica-audio.com



Audiority TS-1 CM
 • Flavoursome transient shaper
 • Set attack and sustain gain
 • Blend control for parallel processing
 • Based on the full TS-1 plugin
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
audiority.com



Unfiltered Audio G8 CM
 • Get tight dynamics or creative FX
 • Includes advanced gating controls
 • Real-time waveform display
 • Use MIDI as a trigger or output
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
unfilteredaudio.com



WA Production Outlaw CM
 • Gain-rider plugin
 • Set an RMS Target level
 • Razor-sharp metering
 • Gate and wet/dry Mix
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
pluginboutique.com



HoRNet DrumShaper
 • Instant EQ & compression for drums
 • Dial in effect amount & in/out gain
 • 7 algorithms: Kick, snare, loops, etc
 • Based on HoRNet TrackShaper
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
macOS Catalina OK - see folder notes
hornetplugins.com



WA Production Puncher CM
 • Three-pronged mixing multieffect
 • Boost transients for punch
 • Four-band multiband compressor
 • Weighty parallel compression
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
waproduction.com

PLUS

Toneboosters Sibalance CM
 • Pro de-esser and de-harsher
 • Four modes for different use cases
 • Reduction and Attack parameters
 • (AU/VST, 32-/64-bit)
toneboosters.com

LVC-Audio Transector CM
 • Transient tweaking and saturation
 • Define and process envelopes
 • Useful metering and visualisation
 • (AU/VST, 32-/64-bit)
lvcaudio.com

HoRNet Fat-FET
 • FET-style compressor
 • Similar to the classic Urei 1176LN
 • Ultra-fast attack as low as 0.02ms
 • Based on HoRNet MultiComp
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
macOS Catalina no update coming
hornetplugins.com

audioD3ck SunRuys CM
 • Characterful bus compressor
 • Dry/wet mix and blend controls
 • Advanced options to go deeper
 • Based on the full SunRuys plugin
 • AU/VST/RTAS/AAX, 32-/64-bit
audio.d3ck.net



D16 Group Frontier
 • Superb mixing/mastering limiter
 • Set Threshold and Output
 • Choose detection and release styles
 • Soft Clip control for drive/distortion
 • AU/VST/AAX, 32-/64-bit
d16.pl



Ignite VST Vice One
 • Talented compressor sold for \$49
 • Choose between analogue or digital response characteristics
 • In/out and gain reduction metering
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
ignitevst.com



Toneboosters Barricade CM
 • Intelligent mastering-grade limiter
 • Dynamic response controls
 • Stereo options, versatile metering
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
toneboosters.com



SKnote Snap
 • Boost or tame transient brightness
 • Brighten or dull a sound's sustain
 • Uses two intelligently-linked filters
 • Not based on any existing plugin
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
sknote.it

ANALYSIS

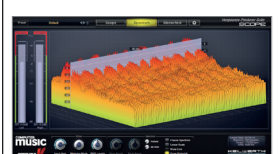
Rule the waves and make your music come alive before your very eyes with the help of these pro-visualisation tools



Blue Cat Audio FreqAnalyst CM
 • Pro-quality, feature-packed analyser
 • Numerous customisation options
 • Based on Blue Cat FreqAnalyst
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit, RTAS 32-bit
bluecataudio.com



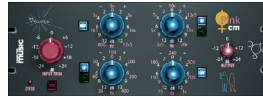
Photosounder Spiral CM
 • Musical, note-based analyser
 • Useful for figuring out notes in audio and grasping music theory
 • Based on the full Spiral plugin
 • AU/VST/AAX, 32-/64-bit
photosounder.com



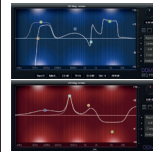
Vengeance-Sound Scope
 • Spectrum for frequency analysis
 • Oscilloscope for waveform view
 • Stereo phase and level metering
 • Tons of advanced analysis options
 • AU/VST/AAX, 32-/64-bit
vengeance-sound.com

EQ/FILTERS

From basic clean-up filters to juicy, analogue-style EQ units and creative effects, get your spectrum sorted with these virtual signal-sculptors



Acustica Audio Pink CM
 • Analogue-modelled API-alike EQ
 • Four EQ bands, two with shelf toggle
 • Output adjusts to match Input Trim
 • Cut from the full Pink channel strip
 • AU/VST/AAX
acustica-audio.com



DDMF CM EQ Pack
 • Two superb equalisers
 • IIEQ Pro CM: 19 filter types
 • LP10 CM: Linear phase EQ
 • Based on commercial DDMF plugins
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
ddmf.eu



Vengeance-Sound Philta CM
 • Dual high- and low-pass filters
 • Four slope settings: 12/24/48/96dB
 • Resonance and width controls
 • Link function and notch mode
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
vengeance-sound.com



AudioThing The Orb CM
 • Morphing vowel formant filter
 • Choose five vowels from a list of ten
 • Move the dot to change the sound
 • Smooth, Gain and Mix to refine
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
audiothing.net



OverTone DSP Program EQ CM
 • Pultec-style vintage EQ emulation
 • Dual bass boost/attenuate knobs
 • Tube amplifier circuit-only option
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
overtonedsp.co.uk



AudioThing ValveFilter CM
 • Gorgeous filtering and drive
 • Low-pass filter circuit emulation
 • Vintage valve saturation section
 • Based on Valve Filter VF-1
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
audiothing.net



OverTone DSP AF2-10 CM
 • Four-band EQ with ten filter types
 • Band gains adjustable +/-24dB
 • Flatten and clear curve, resize GUI
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
overtonedsp.co.uk

PLUS
eaReackon CM-EQUA 87
 Three-band EQ with high/low shelves
 (AU/VST, 32-/64-bit)
eareckon.com

DELAY/REVERB

Add space and ambience, or throw your sounds into a completely new dimension



Baby Audio Baby Comeback CM
 • Delay plugin with several modes
 • Free mode to select delays between 0.01 and 2500ms
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
babyaud.io



PSP Audioware cmDelay
 • Modulatable delay with LFO
 • Dial in delay time, filtering and width
 • Feedback and ping-pong operation
 • Based on the full stompDelay
 • AU/VST/AAX/RTAS, 32-/64-bit
pspaudioware.com

PLUS
JMG Sound/United Plugins Hyperspace CM
 • Algorithmic reverb
 • Three modes, nine parameters
 • Edit using a Character XY Pad
 • AU/VST, AAX, 32-/64-bit
unitedplugins.com

LiquidSonic Reverberate CM
 • Convolution reverb
 • Import your own impulse response
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
liquidsonics.com

Acon Digital CM Verb
 • Based on Acon Digital's Verberate
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
acondigital.com

Ignite VST Arena
 • Beautiful algorithmic reverb
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
ignitevst.com

Surreal Machines Microfuse
 • Delay/reverb hybrid plugin
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
surrealmachines.com

MULTIEFFECTS

Get your creativity all in one place with these all-purpose plugin effects



Audified Tonespot CM
 • EQ, saturation, punch compressor, leveller with distortion, multi effects and finalizer
 • Point and shoot 'instant' plugin
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
audified.com



HY-FX CM
 • Choose one of 22 processors
 • LFO, Envelope Follower and Sample & Hold modulators
 • Wet/dry mix for parallel processing
 • PC/Mac, AU/VST/VST3
hy-plugins.com

PLUS
Inear Display Eurydice CM
 • Stutter, buffer and edit signals
 • Buffer override, repeat, delay, bitcrusher and filter with modulation
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
ineardisplay.com

Tek'it Audio CrossDr CM
 • Three independent bands of drive
 • Drive, Warp, Crush and Clip signals in three parallel bands
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
tek-it-audio.com

Subsonic Labs Wolfram CM
 • Pitchshifting, distortion, phase-shifting, panning, delay and filter
 • Flexible modulation
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
subsoniclabs.com

LVC-Audio T-Chain CM
 • Take your choice of six effects
 • DynoPhuzz CM distortion effect
 • Two dynamics processors to try
 • EQ, ClipShifter and filter effects
lvcaudio.com



EFFECTS *Continued*

DISTORTION/SATURATION

Warm up your signals with these saturators, waveshapers, clippers, guitar amp/cab sims and more



Klevgrand Stark CM
 • Guitar/bass amp with 3-band EQ
 • Dual-mode cabinet section
 • Ambience stage with three sizes
 • Pedal FX slot with 14 processors
 • AU/VST/VST3
macOS Catalina update in progress
klevgrand.se



Kuassa Amplifikation 2 CM
 • Twin-channel guitar amp
 • Three cab models
 • Flexible mic positioning
 • AU/VST/VST3/AAX, 32-/64-bit
kuassa.com



NoiseAsh SpeakerSim CM
 • Four speaker models
 • Onboard EQ and HP/LP filters
 • Internal limiter and distortion
 • In/Out level, Mono/Stereo
 • VST/AU/AAX, 32-/64-bit
macOS Catalina ready!
noiseash.com

PLUS

- Kuassa PreMix CM**
 • Preamp drive with Baxandall EQ
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
kuassa.com
- Audiffex STA Enhancer CM**
 • Valve-style signal exciter/enhancer
 • AU/VST/AAX, 32-/64-bit
audiffex.com
- Audio Assault BassAmp CM**
 • Ampex-inspired bass amp sim
 • AU/VST/AAX, 32-/64-bit
audioassault.com
- Mercurial U530 CM**
 • Emulation of ENGL's E530 preamp
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
mercurial.com



Sonimus Satson CM
 • Classic mixer channel emulation
 • Subtle warming saturation
 • Gentle, musical high/low filters
 • Full Satson Buss also available
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
dsp.sonimus.com



Rop Papan RP-Distort CM
 • Five crunchy distortion algorithms
 • EQ, dynamics, widener, modulation
 • Filter and parallel processing controls
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
roppapan.com



Audio Assault GrindMachine CM
 • Five amp and ten cab emulations
 • 3-band EQ plus depth and presence
 • Djentbox to tighten low tunings
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
audioassault.com



Cableguys WaveShaper CM
 • Graphically editable distortion
 • Design curves by dragging nodes
 • Input vs output oscilloscope
 • Not based on an existing plugin
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
cableguys.com

HoRNet Graffio CM
 • Flexible three-flavour distortion
 • AU/VST/VST3/AAX/RTAS, 32-/64-bit
macOS Catalina ready!
hornetplugins.com

Lindell 6X-500 CM
 • Classic preamp emulation with EQ
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
lindellplugins.com

Shattered Glass Audio Inferno CM
 • Two analogue preamp models
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
shatteredglassaudio.com

OTHER

More esoteric and incredibly useful plugins from recent issues of **cm**



Auburn Sounds Management CM
 • Psycho-stereo toolkit plugin
 • Place sounds with Binaural Pan
 • Edit perceived distance and width
 • Stereose mono sounds
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
auburnsounds.com



JST & Boz SideWidener
 • Add stereo width to mono sounds
 • Signal retains mono compatibility
 • Goniometer for stereo visuals
 • Three widen modes, Width & Tone
 • AU/VST/AAX/RTAS, 32-/64-bit
joesturgistones.com
bozdigitalabs.com



New Sonic Arts Freestyle CMI.5
 • Host and chain together your **cm** Plugins VSTs
 • Route and split signal paths
 • Event Player to simple sequences
 • Save snapshots of whole setups
macOS Catalina OK in 1.5 update
newsonicarts.com



Nyrv Agent CM
 • Create custom effects chains with this valuable utility plugin
 • Host your VST/AU plugins
 • Design your own interface
 • Based on the full Agent plugin
 • AU/VST/AAX, 32-/64-bit
nyrvsystems.com



Dotec-Audio DeeMonitor
 • Handy monitoring utility plugin
 • Emulate NS10, Genelec and Auratone 5C speakers in your DAW
 • Invert and Solo left and right feeds
 • Mid/Side balancing + Output gain
 • AU/VST, 32-/64-bit
dotec-audio.com



Inear Display Litote CM
 • Granular effect to slice and dice signals on a microscopic level
 • Tweak speed and introduce jitter
 • Adjust the Timbre Frequency, Feedback and Diffusion
 • AU/VST/AAX, 32-/64-bit
ineardisplay.com



HoRNet FreMo
 • Mini frequency modulator effect
 • Oscillator frequency can be set manually or follow input pitch
 • Scale the oscillator from 1x to 10x
 • Set mod amount and osc waveform
 • AU/VST/AAX, 32-/64-bit
macOS Catalina OK - see folder notes
hornetplugins.com



Audio Vitamins Life CM
 • Modulation and widening plugin
 • Vary pitch or amplitude with LFOs
 • Widen, sweeten and improve audio to a mix-ready state
 • AU/VST/AAX, 32-/64-bit
audiovitamins.com



HoRNet Chorus CM
 • Modeled on a famous BBD unit
 • Three independent delay lines
 • Speed, Level and Pan controls
 • Analog and Hiss modes
 • Input, Output and Dry Level
 • AU/VST/AAX, 32-/64-bit
macOS Catalina OK - see folder notes
hornetplugins.com

Loading plugins in your DAW

Though there are a wide variety of DAWs, each with its own unique interface, there are similarities when it comes to loading up and using plugins, and most stick to one of two approaches. The first - as seen in Steinberg's Cubase, Apple's Logic, and Cakewalk's Sonar - involves insert slots on a track or mixer channel. These are used in the same way as an insert effect would be used on a hardware mixer. In other words, the effect is placed 'in line' on that mixer or track channel. Plugins might be loaded in by use of a dropdown menu tree or right-clicking in the effects slot. Clicking in the insert or effects slot in some DAWs - Cockos' Reaper, for instance - will reveal a dedicated browser from which the desired plugin may be selected.

It's common to stack multiple effects plugins together to form an effects 'chain', much in the way a guitarist might connect various stompboxes together to form a custom sound. In some DAWs, these effects chains may be saved and recalled at a later time.

If your DAW uses a sidebar browser, here you can find your plugins displayed and possibly arranged into categories. The plugins may be dragged into the project and placed directly onto a track or channel. Ableton Live, Bitwig Studio, Cakewalk's Sonar and PreSonus Studio One can all open effects and even instrument plugins in this manner.

On the subject of instrument plugins, we should discuss the different methods you might encounter when loading up instruments. As mentioned, sometimes they can be dragged and



See how to load plugins in eight different DAWs with our videos at the URLs below

dropped from a browser onto a specific track. However, many DAWs distinguish between instrument and audio tracks, so you'll need to keep this in mind. Those that allow you to drag instruments in from a browser might offer the choice of using an existing instrument track or creating a new one. Some DAWs (Cubase, Sonar) allow you to open instruments in a 'rack' and then connect to them from MIDI or instrument tracks. Others (Logic) make a plugin menu available from the track itself.

We've prepared videos for eight major DAWs showing you the basics of loading plugins, along with a few handy tips you won't want to miss:

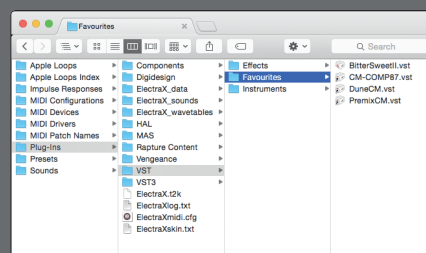
- > Cockos Reaper - bit.ly/LPReaper
- > Cakewalk Sonar - bit.ly/LPisonar
- > PreSonus Studio One - bit.ly/LPistudioone
- > Apple Logic - bit.ly/LPilogic
- > Image-Line FL Studio - bit.ly/LPflstudio
- > Steinberg Cubase - bit.ly/LPcubase
- > Bitwig Studio - bit.ly/LPbitwig
- > Ableton Live - bit.ly/LPableton

Plugin folder locations

So how does your DAW know where to look for your plugins? Actually, it might not. Mac users have it easy, as there are OS-specified folders into which plugins are installed. These folders can be found by going to your Library folder (if you can't find it, go to the Finder's **Go** menu, hold **Alt**, and a **Library** option should appear). Find the **Audio** directory, and then the **Plug-Ins** folder within. There you will find more folders still. One will be labelled **Components** - this is where your AU plugins reside. Other folders will be found alongside it for **VST** and **VST3** plugins. If you're a Pro Tools user, you'll find your plugins in an Avid or Digidesign folder. If your installers don't automatically install the plugins into the proper folder, you should manually copy them into the relevant folders listed above.

One caveat: there will likely be two sets of folders under two different Library locations.

One is for all users, the other is for administrator use. If your DAW has trouble seeing a plugin, you might need to move it



If you're using Apple's OS X, all your VST, VST3 and Audio Units go into pre-determined locations

from one Library to the other, though the system folder is usually the one to use. Uninstalling plugins from OS X usually

requires little more than putting the Component or VST file in the Trash. Sometimes an uninstaller will be offered to you, though.

On Windows, you can choose the location of your VST plugins folders. Some DAWs will create one when you install them, but both DAW and plugin installers will often give you an option of pointing to the plugin directory you'd like to use. It usually looks something like C:\Program Files\Steinberg\VST Plugins.

Some plugins are delivered as only DLL files, and need to be copied to your chosen directory. Once you've installed your plugins, think twice about moving them. Some plugins rely on support files installed into the same directory. To duplicate plugins elsewhere on the drive, use shortcuts on Windows (right-click to create one) or aliases on Macs (Cmd-Alt-dragging). **cm**